CHAPTER V.

Forest Administration.

Officers in charge.

151. The charge of the Circle and of the different Divisions was held by the officers mentioned below :—

Circle	...	...	Mr. E. R. Dasai, whole year.
Sukkur Division	...	...	Mr. Shaukiram Peribdas, whole year.
Naushahro Division	...	...	Mr. B. G. Deshpande, whole year.
Hyderabad Division	...	...	Mr. B. H. Dalal, from 1st July 1896 to 17th May 1897. Mr. G. K. Betham, from 18th May to 30th June 1897.
Jerruck Division		...	Mr. G. M. Ryan, from 1st July 1896 to 29th December 1896. Mr. E. R. Dasai, from 30th December 1896 to 5th January 1897. Mr. G. K. Betham, from 6th January 1897 to 30th June 1897.
Working Plans Division		...	Mr. O. H. L. Napier, from 1st July 1896 to 16th March 1897. Mr. B. H. Dalal, from 17th March 1897 to 30th April 1897. Mr. O. H. L. Napier, from 1st May 1897 to 6th May 1897. Mr. B. H. Dalal, from 7th to 19th May 1897. Mr. E. R. Dasai, from 20th May to 30th June 1897.

Details of changes in the upper and lower controlling staff.

152. I was appointed Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade, with effect from the 25th November 1896, in consequence of the changes caused by the lamentable death of Mr. J. L. MacGregor, Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade. Under the orders of Government contained in their Resolution No. 1028, dated 16th December 1896, Mr. G. M. Ryan was transferred to South Thana, Northern Circle, and was relieved of the charge of the Jerruck Division on 30th December 1896 in the forenoon. His place was taken by Mr. G. K. Betham, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade, who joined his duties in Sind on 6th January 1897. Mr. B. H. Dalal, Extra-Assistant Conservator of Forests, having been transferred to the Rajpipla State, made over charge of the Hyderabad Division to Mr. G. K. Betham, Divisional Forest Officer, Jerruck, who continued to hold it, in addition to his own, from 18th May 1897 to the end of the year, as the transfer of Mr. Haripad Mitra, Extra-Assistant Conservator of Forests, who had been posted to this Circle, was suspended, pending completion of the work on which he was then engaged. The services of Mr. O. H. L. Napier, Deputy Conservator of Forests, and Mr. Shaukiram Peribdas, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, had to be spared during the year for plague duty. The former handed over the charge of the Working Plans Office to Mr. B. H. Dalal, who was in turn relieved by me on being transferred to foreign service. Mr. Shaukiram Peribdas, who had been entrusted with the arrangements of the Segregation Camps in Sukkur, carried them out in addition to his own duties. Mr. Napier proceeded to England on three months' privilege leave on account of ill-health from 7th May 1897.

Executive and Protective staffs.

153. In the numerical strength of the Executive and Protective staffs, there was no change. The utter inadequacy of these establishments has formed the subject of comment on various occasions, and the urgency of improving their status and placing them on a better footing is being keenly felt.

Forest Class at the College of Science, Poona.

154. No new students arrived from Poona during the year, but the two candidates admitted to the Forest Class last year will be coming out in December next, if they undergo successfully the final test. The system of nomination, under which each Conservator had authority to select a certain number of candidates for training in the College, has been done away with and admissions are now made by competitive examination, to be held by the Principal in Poona An exception has, however, been made in favour of Sind on a representation having been made from the Circle office, pointing out the consequences of the inconvenience and the hardship which the intending candidates from this Province would be subjected to in the event of their being obliged to go to Poona to appear for the competitive examination This examination will henceforth be conducted simultaneously in Sind, under the superintendence of the Conservator of Forests, after being duly advertised, the examination papers being set by the College staff.

Office establishments.

155. The establishments in the Circle, as well as in the Divisional offices remained at the same strength as that of the year preceding. The work in the different offices has increased to such an extent as to loudly call for revision. In response to the directions conveyed in Government Resolution No. 4659, dated 23rd June 1897, separate proposals have been submitted for revising them, and it is earnestly hoped they will be sanctioned ere long.

Expenditure on establishments.

156. The budget grant as well as the actual expenditure on account of the subordinate Protective and Office establishments is given below for two years for the sake of comparison :—

Establishment.	Sanctioned grant, Financial year.		Actual expenditure, Financial year.	
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Office	10,700	10,632	*10,571	10,606
Protective ...	39,000	39,000	*37,586	37,112
Total ...	49,700	49,632	48,157	47,718

* The figures given in last year's report were incorrect.

Conduct of establishment.

157. The conduct of the Executive and the Office staffs continued to be satisfactory on the whole, only one Ranger—the senior on the list—having been reduced for the perfunctory manner in which he discharged his duties. There was some improvement in the conduct of the members of the Protective branch also, the number of persons dismissed and reduced being less than that of the year previous; but the number of those fined somewhat increased, as some required a little waking up in the matter of grazing collections, and others were inclined to be indolent and displayed dilatoriness in the execution of orders.

Health of establishment.

158. The health of the establishments was reported to be good. No subordinate died of plague during the year.

Murderous assault on a Round Guard.

159. The Forest Department lost the services of one of its best Sub-Rangers under most distressing circumstances in the year of report. While on his way to the camp of the Range Forest Officer at Nasri on the 9th January 1897, to deliver the grazing collections made by him, he was set upon by some ruffians and murdered in cold blood in broad day-light. He was also robbed of Rs. 15-10-6 out of the total sum of Rs. 22-10-6, and the balance of Rs. 7

was found on the deceased's person tied up in his waist band. Such an occurrence was the first of its kind in the annals of the Department since its organisation. All efforts to trace the real murderers having failed, the stolen money had to be written off with the sanction of Government.

Services of officers.

Services of officers.

160. In the transfer of Mr. G. M. Ryan, Deputy Conservator of Forests, to the Northern Circle and in the deputation of Mr. B. H. Dalal, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests to foreign service in the Rajpipla State, the Sind Circle has lost the services of two intelligent and zealous officers.

161. Mr. G K. Betham, Divisional Forest Officer, Jerruck, being new to the Province, had just sufficient time after his arrival in January 1897 to make himself pretty well acquainted with the forests of his charge.

162. The arduous duties pertaining to his dual charge, requiring more than ordinary exertion, Mr. Napier has performed satisfactorily. No little credit is due for the tact and judgment he displayed in effecting the settlement of two long-standing boundary disputes in the Jerruck Division.

163. The management of the Naushahro Division by Mr. B. G. Deshpande has met with my approval.

164. Mr. Shaukiram, Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur, whose reputation as a hard-working officer has been already established, has during the year under report earned my special thanks for the creditable manner in which he has supervised and carried out the cultural operations in almost all the ranges of his Division.

165. Special mention of the following Range Forest Officers has been made in the Divisional reports:—

Rangers.	*Foresters.*
1. Metharam Deumal.	5. Mangharam Dayaram.
2. Bulchand Parumal.	6. Kauromal Nihalsing.
3. Dalpatrai Jethanand.	7. Tekchand Kevalram.
4. Vishindas Ram Baksh.	8. Bulchand Hasomal.
	9. Lakhasing Nihalchand.
	10. Dayaram Neribdas.
	11. Kundanmal Jhamrai.

166. The Circle and the Divisional office establishments, there can be no doubt, are overworked, and if relief is not afforded soon, some of the members will break down in health completely. The Clerks have all, without an exception, been reported on favourably by the officers under whom they are serving, and it gives me pleasure once again to bring to the notice of Government the care and ability shown by the Head Accountant in the Circle office, Mr. Parmanand Hirdaram, in carrying on the Account work, and the marked intelligence and industry displayed by the Head Clerk, Mr. Parmanand Udharam, in the correspondence branch, work in which is increasing day by day.

General Remarks.

Tour of inspection.

167. In the recess season, I visited Hyderabad and Sukkur, and was absent from head-quarters from the 20th July to the 1st August 1896. During my stay at both these places, besides inspecting the cultural operations in the forests in their vicinity, I tried to sell the coupes of the Hyderabad, Naushahro and Sukkur Divisions, but the tenders received on the dates fixed were so low that they had to be rejected, and consultations were held with the Divisional Forest Officers concerned as to the best manner of breaking through the combination which was apparent amongst the purchasers.